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NEWS RELEASE

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**SACRAMENTO MAN SENTENCED FOR TRAVELING ACROSS STATE LINES
FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENGAGING IN SEX WITH A NEVADA MINOR**

SACRAMENTO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that MICHAEL STEPHEN DAHL, 49, of Sacramento, was sentenced today to 188 months in prison for traveling in interstate commerce with the intent of engaging in illicit sexual conduct with a minor. DAHL was sentenced in Sacramento this morning by Chief United States District Judge David F. Levi. Judge Levi, who stated that DAHL represented a significant danger to the public, also imposed a life term of supervised release which shall commence upon DAHL's release from prison.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Laurel White, who prosecuted the case, DAHL had previously entered his guilty plea to the charge he traveled from California to Nevada with the intent of engaging in unlawful sex with a minor. DAHL admitted he drove from Sacramento to Reno in May, 2004, to rendezvous with a 14-year old girl he had met on a telephone chat service. He admitted his purpose in meeting the girl was to engage in sexual relations with her, but he denied ever having sex with her.

At an evidentiary hearing last week before Judge Levi, the girl – now 15 years old -- testified that DAHL had forced her to engage in sexual intercourse. Significant testimony was

also presented showing that the minor experienced extreme psychological harm as a consequence of her encounter with DAHL. The defendant testified that no sex had resulted from his meeting with the girl.

"This case starkly demonstrates the dark side of our electronic age. A stranger almost 50 years old was able to use a telephone chat service to gain the confidence of a 14 year old girl and sexually exploit her. The court's harsh punishment justly reflects this criminal's reprehensible conduct," said United States Attorney Scott.

In imposing the 188- month sentence, the court found that the girl's testimony had been credible, and that the upward departure from the sentencing guideline range was justified and resulted in a reasonable sentence. The court noted that the defendant had a history of such conduct, beginning in 2000 when he was convicted in the Southern District of Texas for engaging in similar conduct. In that case, the victim had been an undercover officer who DAHL believed was a 13 year old girl. The defendant was sentenced to 15 months in prison for that offense, and was placed on federal supervised release. Because he resided in the Sacramento area, his supervision was transferred to the Eastern District of California. In early 2003, while under supervision here, DAHL violated several conditions of his release, admitted the violations, and was sentenced to an additional 12 months in prison. After his release from prison for his supervised release violation, and while on continued federal supervision, he commenced his phone relationship with the 14-year old Reno girl.

A copy of this press release is available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/home>, select Press Releases.

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